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cause of both of these facts. No official or private citizen in any community knows these characters and their ways better than the police. If we were less sensitive than we now are on the point of our alleged individual rights and privileges the police could do much more than they are now doing to help us over some of our social disabilities. Responsibility for improvement rests both upon the public at large and the police, but upon neither side alone.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

THE CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION BUREAU

Wherever police departments are maintained the officials in charge have recognized that the identification bureau is a very important branch of the police organization. They have learned from experience that the delinquent changes his demeanor toward them as soon as he learns that his identity is known. When offenders are able to conceal their identity they are defiant, non-communicative, and frequently combative, whereas, if they are shown by the identification officers that their previous record is known the defiant attitude vanishes, and the hitherto silent and sometimes combative suspect is quite a talkative and congenial sort of fellow, ready to tell all he knows about himself, his associates, and his fence. Moreover, he frequently furnishes valuable information concerning the whereabouts and activities of others who are engaged in unlawful occupations.

The police have learned also that the identification of prisoners facilitates criminal procedure. Instead of spending days interviewing witnesses, securing evidence, and later prosecuting the case in court with prospects of a long, tedious trial, the matter is completely disposed of in a few hours, if the prisoner is convinced that his record is known. He is usually willing to waive all of his rights and enter a plea of guilty as quickly as the legal machinery will permit him to do so.

Identification bureaus are useful also when it is necessary to compare finger-prints found at the scene of the crime with finger-prints that are filed in the police department. Numerous delinquents have learned to their sorrow that identification was quick and certain when their finger marks have been discovered by the officers in the vicinity of the crime.

Photographs of prisoners pasted chronologically in photograph albums furnished the only means of identification for many years. Later additional albums were added in which were filed photographs of specialists in various criminal occupations, such as pickpockets, safe

burglars, bunco men, etc. In large cities the number of the photographs increased rapidly and many hours and even days were spent in search of the criminal record of the suspect, often without result.

In 1882 Dr. Alphonse Bertillon was made chief of the Paris Identification Bureau and introduced a new method for the identification of delinquents. This system is divided into three parts: the anthropometrical, which consists in measuring with calipers some of the most characteristic dimensions of the bony structure of the human body; the descriptive, which is the observation of the bodily shape and movements, and even the most characteristic mental and moral qualities; and finally, the signalment by peculiar marks, which is the observation of the peculiarities of the surface of the body resulting from disease, accident, deformities, or artificial disfigurements, such as moles, warts, tattooings, etc. Bertillon's fame spread throughout the police world and his system was adopted by most of the important cities in this and other countries.

Finger-printing as a means of identification is much older than the other two systems, namely, photography and anthropometry. While it is true that the police have only within the last few years recognized the importance of finger-prints, the Chinese for centuries past have used the papillary lines on the tips of the fingers for identification.

The finger-print system is being substituted for Bertillon's anthropometry system for the following reasons: first, the cost of the Bertillon system is greater; second, longer time is required to take measurements; third, errors in measurements are common, frequently rendering the record useless. In considering the advantages of the finger-print system as compared with the Bertillon we note: first, apparatus required is comparatively inexpensive; second, the experienced person can take, classify, and file the finger-print record in a few moments; third, errors in classification or filing are very rare.

The two best known methods for classifying finger-prints are the Vucetich and the Henry. In both systems the ten fingers are used for filing and classifying. The single finger, however, is sufficient for identification. Finger-prints are taken from the third phalanx. Henry's classification has four types: arches, loops, whorls, and composites; while Vucetich divides his types as follows: arches, internal loops, external loops, and whorls. All other methods are modifications of the Vucetich and the Henry systems. English and United States police organizations use the Henry system; South American countries use the Vucetich system; both systems are used in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

A new system for the identification and detection of delinquents which is being looked upon with much favor is the Modus Operandi System devised by Major W. L. Atcherley, Chief Constable of West Riding of the Yorkshire Constabulary. This system is briefly described by Mr. R. B. Fosdick in the November, 1915, issue of this JOURNAL.

The Modus Operandi System is intended to supplement other identification systems now in use. Whatever the cause, it is a fact that numerous delinquents operate in a manner peculiar to themselves. One man will enter a home by forcing open a side window with a jimmy, while another will use pass keys to enter a rear door. Some thieves steal jewelry, while others confine their attention entirely to silverware. A burglar who enters a home at night seldom operates in the daytime and the daylight burglar seemingly prefers not to take any chances at night.

While the old photograph method was useful in determining the identity of individuals responsible for particular offenses, it was first necessary to find a witness who could pick out of the many thousands of photographs the one which resembled the criminal operator. Every experienced identification officer can testify that mistakes in identity of offenders by photographs are not uncommon, and many innocent persons have suffered temporary imprisonment as the result of faulty identification; nevertheless, photography plays a very large part in the identification of delinquents. But the investigation or identification officer feels better satisfied when he is fortunate enough to secure finger-prints at the scene of the crime. There is then no doubt in his mind as to the guilt or innocence of the suspect.

Thieves may disguise themselves in such a manner as to prevent their identification by untrained persons; they may not leave finger-prints behind them at the scene of their crimes, but it is almost impossible for them to commit any crime without leaving behind a most important clue, and that clue is their method of operation. We may, therefore, expect that in the future more attention will be given to the detection and identification of professional criminal operators by the Modus Operandi System.

Only unimportant cities or cities whose inhabitants are lacking in civic pride are without identification bureaus. The same may be said of the several counties in the United States. County bureaus are growing in number each year. Sheriffs and chiefs of police, recognizing the difficulty which beset them in detecting, apprehending, and identifying the migratory crook, are urging the establishment of state

bureaus of identification which will serve as clearing houses for crime records. A brief outline of the work performed in the state bureau will illustrate its usefulness. The finger-prints of persons charged with a criminal offense anywhere in the state are sent to the state bureau, where they are filed without delay, and when identifications are made the previous record of the accused is sent to the office from which the record was received. Reports of crime where property has been obtained by theft, fraud, or violence and of all felonies are forwarded to the clearing house where they are indexed according to the locality and method of operation. A pawnshop record file is maintained in some of the state bureaus wherein are filed all of the articles reported stolen, or pawned, or sold in second-hand stores. Every article, excepting those which already have numbers such as watches and revolvers, is given a numerical value by the decimal system, and by using different colored cards to distinguish stolen property from pawned and sold property, a large amount of stolen property is recovered yearly.

At the last convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police a committee was appointed to visit Washington and place before our national law makers plans for a National Intelligence Bureau.

The plan embodies all of the features of the state bureau, including finger-print, Bertillon, and Modus Operandi systems of identification, pawnshop and stolen property files, delinquents' history file, and English descriptive file.

Not only would a national intelligence bureau identify habitual offenders, locate stolen property and persons wanted for crime, but would, in addition thereto, furnish life histories of recidivists, invaluable to the prosecuting officer and psychopathic laboratory. Most important from the viewpoint of crime prevention is the influence such a bureau would exert in promoting uniform and better methods of police procedure, standardization of record forms, and a healthier spirit of co-operation between federal, state, county, and municipal public safety organizations.

AUGUST VOLLMER.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY.

At the annual meeting of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology, held at Cleveland on August 26, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: